

Dr. John Helgeland, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, 82, died in Hospice Care at Monument Health Sturgis Care Center in Sturgis, SD, on Monday, May 8, 2023. His death occurred after a long and valiant battle with Alzheimer's disease.

John was born on October 22, 1940, and the only child of beloved parents, Sander and Annette Helgeland. He spent most of his growing up years in Charles City and Decorah, IA. He graduated Decorah High School in 1958 and moved on to Luther College in Decorah for his undergraduate studies and earned a B.A. in 1962 with a major in Greek and minors in Latin and Philosophy. He attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and earned a Masters in Divinity in 1966. He attended the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL, and earned a M.A. in The History of Christianity in 1969 and a Ph.D. in Early Christian History in 1973.

John taught at Luther College in 1972, and worked as an Exchange Professor at St. John's University and Divinity School, Collegeville, MN, from 1972 to 1977. He was at North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo ND as Director of the School of Religion with a joint appointment in Religion and History from 1977 until his retirement in 2015. During his tenure he helped found the Northern Plains Ethics Institute (NPEI). He was also instrumental in the formation of NDSU's Group Decision Center (GDC) in 1998. John was an active member of Olivet Lutheran Church, Fargo, loved varmint and deer hunting and spent many hours reloading ammunition both for him and for friends. He also loved playing the bass trombone in high school and college marching and concert bands. He helped to form and played in the Agassiz Concert Band and later in his life enjoyed participating in the Golden Notes Band.

Among his several honors and awards are Blue Key Honor Society, NDSU Distinguished Educator, 1982; Remele Fellowship, ND Humanities Council, 1995; Outstanding Service Award, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, 1998; Robert Feder Humanitarian Award Temple Beth El, 1999; Luther College Distinguished Service Award, 2017.

John is survived by his wife of 33 years, Susan; daughters: Dr. Annalyssa Gypsy Murphy (Helgeland) of Massachusetts, and Elena Helgeland of Minnesota; as well as grandchildren: Jordan Helgeland and Reoin, Molly, and Emerson Murphy.

In lieu of flowers you are encouraged to support the John Helgeland Lecture Fund. Follow the link or copy into browser:

<https://www.ndsufoundation.com/john-helgeland-lectureship-fund>

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

Thank you for your presence and condolences.

In Loving Memory Of



John Helgeland

***Solum in nocte astra vidēmus;
Solum per mortem ad glōriam adsurgēmus***
(Only at night do we see the stars; only through death will we rise to glory)

In Loving Memory Of
John Allen Helgeland

Born
October 22, 1940
Pueblo, Colorado

Died
May 8, 2023
Sturgis, South Dakota

Celebration of Life Service
Friday, August 11, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Olivet Lutheran Church
Fargo, North Dakota

Eulogies
Dr. Annalyssa Gypsy Murphy
Aaron L. Barth, PhD

Special Music
“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” ~ Processional
“Just A Closer Walk With Thee” ~ Quarter Notes Combo
“Take Now My Hand and Lead Me” ~ Tom Isern

Video Presentation
Dennis Cooley

Soli Deo Gloria
(To God Alone the Glory)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DR. JOHN ALLEN HELGELAND
August 11, 2023
Olivet Lutheran Church

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*
ELW #504

ENTRANCE PROCLAMATION & OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME

EULOGY Dr. Annalyssa Gypsy Murphy

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”*
Quarter Notes Combo Director ~ Shannon Vanderford

EULOGY Aaron L. Barth, PhD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

VIDEO PRESENTATION
Dennis Cooley—Director, Northern Plains Ethics Institute, NDSU

MESSAGE

SOLO *“Take Now My Hand and Lead Me”* -Tom Isern

PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

COMMENDATION

RECESSIONAL

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and refreshments
in the Fellowship Hall following the service.*